

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/783,295	SATO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Tu T. Nguyen	2877

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 11/24/2003.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
 3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) None c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
 5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**
7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Tu T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2877

Serial Number: 09/783,295

Filing Date: 02/15/2001

Detailed Office Action

Election/Restriction

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 16 to 20 non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 16-20 been cancelled.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

- 1) Specification, page 12, line 7, change “FIGS. 6A to 6H” to -- FIGS. 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E, 6F, 6G, 6H --
- 2) Specification, page 12, line 10, change “FIGS. 7A to 7H” to -- FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E, 7F, 7G, 7H --
- 3) Specification, page 12, line 19, change “FIGS. 9A to 9C” to -- FIGS. 9A, 9B, 9C --
- 4) Specification, page 13, line 20, change “FIGS. 18A and 18C” to --FIGS. 18A, 18B, 18C --

In the claims:

- 1) Cancel claims 16-20.
- 2) Claim 1, lines 7-8, change “a opaque” to -- an opaque --
- 3) Claim 1, line 12, change “a opaque” to -- an opaque --
- 4) Claim 11, lines 7-8, change “a opaque” to -- an opaque --
- 5) Claim 11, line 15, change “a opaque” to -- an opaque --

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior arts of record does not disclose a method for inspecting an exposure apparatus. The method comprises: a step of guiding light emitted from an illumination optical system to a photomask where a pattern is formed of an optical member including a light transmission pattern as a diffraction grating pattern, in which a light transmission part and an opaque part are repeated in a predetermined direction, a plurality of ratios are given between a length of the light transmission part and a length of the opaque part in a repetition direction, and a periphery of the light transmission pattern is shielded by an opaque area, such that a plurality of ratios are given between the light transmission part and the opaque part; a step of measuring a change of transmittance depending on a light path of the projection optical system, based on a pattern image of the diffraction light transferred to the wafer which structurally arranged and functionally operated as claimed in claims 1,11.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-9185. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 7:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G Font can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Tu T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2877
12/09/03